मैं अगली मीटिंग में वह आंकड़े ले आऊंगा, पर जरा सुनिये तो। अगर हमारे आंकड़े गलत होंगे, तो आपसे कह दूंगा कि गलत है।... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you should not answer supplementaries to supplementaries. You should answer only the supplementaries and stop. If there are any interruptions, you should not answer the interruptions. Otherwise, the Question Hour will go on expanding. Please answer only the supplementary.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I stand corrected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Coal supply for power generation

*3. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the thermal power generation in India has suffered heavily due to poor coal supply;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some power generation units have been shut down for want of coal; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure adequate supply of coal to the power industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. In fact, the coal supplies to Thermal Power Stations have shown substantial increase during the last three years as indicated below:—

(*Figures in million tonnes*)

	Quantity of Coal supplied
1982-83 . . .	51.61
1983--84 . . .	58.11
1984-85 . . .	64.30

The supply during the first quarter of 1985-86 have been 18 52 million tonnes as compared to 15.37 million tonnes in the same period of the previous year showing an increase of 20.5 per cent.

However, the coal stocks at some power stations are low because of transporation problems, inadequate facilities at the power stations for stocking of coal|handling of coal wagons and also due to inadequate production of coal by the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., as compared to the demand.

(b) No such instance has come to notice. However, in the case of Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station of NTPC, it has been reported that even though the third unit of 210 MW was ready for operation in April 1985 ahead of schedule, it could not be operated due to insufficient supplies of coal from Singareni Collieries Company Limted, Sufficent quantity of coal has now been assured for running this third unit also by re-adjustment of supplies to other Power Stations.

(c) Constant liasion is being maintained between the agencies involved, namely, Coal Companies, Railways and Electricity Boards. Regular coordination meeting are also held among concerned Ministries, as a result of which there has been substantial improvement in the coal supplies to Thermal power Stations during 1985-86 as compared to the previous year. Further, a plan has been drawn up by the Department of Coal, Deptt. of Power and the Ministry of Railways to build up stocks of one month's requirement at the major power stations, excepting those which do not have adequate storage/handling facilities. Steps have also been taken to improve coal production in Singareni Collieries Company Limited, to meet the increasing demand from Thermal power Stations and other consumers in Southern India.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for part (b) of my question whether it is also a fact that some power generation units have been shut down for want of coal, the answer given is no such instance has come to notice I think this answer by the Minister is self-contradictory and *ipso facto* incorrect on the basis of the report that has come in

the Times of India dated 22.5.1985. I quote a paragraph from the report:

"Inquiries from official sources have revealed that the Ramagundam thermal power station is unable to generate sufficient power for supply to the starved southern states like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, since all the three units cannot generate power without coal supply from Singareni.

"The power scenario has been further complicated on account of the design defect in the equipment supplied by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. It had been observed that there have been serious leakages of hydrogen in the equipment. Since BHEL is now rectifying this defect one unit of 200 MW of Ramagundam power station has been under compulsory shut down since April 28.

"The other two units with a capability of 400 MW generation per day are being partially loaded and on an average generation at Ramagundam during the month of April has been in the range of only 300 MW against a capacity of 600 MW."

On the basis of this statement the answer given by the Minister appears to be contradictory.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The report itself which the hon. Member has read out from a newspaper cutting shows that the units at Ramagundam Thermal power station have not been totally closed down. That is why I have stated in my statement in reply to part (b) of the Question that no such instance has come to notice. I have myself given the information saying. "However, in the case of Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station of NTPC, it has been reported that even though the third unit of 210 MW was ready for operation in April 1985 ahead of schedule, it could not be operated due to insufficient supplies of coal from Singareni Collieries Company Limited. Sufficient quantity of coal has now been assured" and the third unit also will now be run.

Now, we have in collaboration with the the Ministry of Power decided to supply coal to the third unit as well. Thus, even Ramagundam and the other two units will be working fully.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: This is a very perennial problem. A number of units in Maharashtra and other places have temporarily been closed down because of shortage of coal being supplied to them. The usual reply given by the Coal Department is that the railway wagons are not available, but the reply of the Railway Mnistry is that the wagons are available and the Coal Department is not using them. May I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to have yards near the thermal power station itself so that the question of coal shortage can be solved on permanent basis? If you have the yards near the thermal power station, you can transport coal throughout the year and the problem can be solved that way.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Actually, whether we have a stockyard at the thermal power station or the thermal power station itself stocks coal, which is better? The better thing is.... *(Interruptions)* The question of wagons will remain for both. What we are now suggesting is that the power houses should stock coal for more than a month. That will solve the problem. We are willing to give the coal. It is true that the question of railway wagons was there. The Government is one. It is no use one Ministry blaming the oher. Therefore our attempt has been, we are sitting together constantly, even at the ministerial level, to sort out the problem of movement and we are trying to see that more and more coal is moved to the power stations and no power stations is made to suffer on account of shortage of coal.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: It has been widely reported that low quality coal has been despatched to the thermal plants resulting in more ash and less of power generation. This malady has existed at least in thermal power plants in Haryana and Punjab which I know. Will the hon. Minister make it clear that only the best quality coal would be made available to thermal power plants and the problems of transportation costs price and poor

performance of the thermal plants will be remedied by supplying good quality coal.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I can supply the coal that this country has and which can be produced here. So therefore to say that I should supply the best quality coal will be hoping too much.

SHRI M S. GURUPADASWAMY: The best available quality coal.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Yes, the best available quality in India. Let us face the facts, Sir. The coal in India has high ash content and we have to live with this. But this coal is known as "power grade" coal, which is good for power generation. All we have to do is to design the boilers of the power houses to use the coal that we have and that is what is being done. Normally the power houses, as per their design, are linked to the quality of coal and that quality of coal is supplied to the power houses to which they are linked.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, the Minister has said that he is ready to supply the best available quality coal whichever is available. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that recently it has been reported in the press that vast areas of coalfields have been discovered in Warangal district in Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh. I would like to know from the Minister what sort of coal would be available from that area and whether Government is serious enough to take steps. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is not relevant.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Why no, Sir? We want the best coal. The best coal is available in this region. I would like to know whether Government has gone into it and found that the best coal is available there.

MR. CHIRMAN: Shri Ramakrishnan.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish the picture painted by the hon. Minister, which is a very rosy picture, were true. One of the main constraints for development in this country is power which is woefully inadequate in many parts of the country, which you know, Sir, and the Minister also knows. But these are very larger issues. Coming to the specific supplementary arising out of this, in answer to part (b) of the question the Minister says that no such instance has come to notice and then he refers to something about Ramagundam. The Minister is aware that Ennore thermal plant in Madras, with which you, Sir, are familiar, is having a coal linkage with Singareni of one lakh twenty thousand tonnes and because you wanted to give to Ramagundam—which is very good as long as there is power in the country —you have cut down the supply to Ennore by 40,000 tonnes and reduced it to 80,000 tonnes and for another power station in Maharashtra at some place you have taken away 40,000 tonnes from the existing linkage, which has resulted in considerable inconvenience. Now you are linking Ennore to Talcher coalfields. The coal has to come by rail-cum-sea. The freight is Rs. 200 per tonne if it comes by rail and if it comes by sea it is Rs. 385 per tonne and goes up to as much as Rs. 600 per tonne. Arising out of this, will the hon. Minister consider, like in the case of cement and steel, having a coal freight equalisation reserve which is very essential if all the thermal power plants are to perform efficiently and the cost of generation is to be the same? They should not be penalised by the World Bank and other agencies because they say "your cost of generation is more".

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The suggestion is worth considering.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, he will consider the suggestion.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर के पार्ट 'सी' से सम्बन्धित मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि देश में बहुत से बिजलीघर ऐसे हैं जिनमें कोयले के भंडारण और रखरखाव की पर्याप्त सुविधाएं नहीं हैं । बहुत दिनों से बड़े बिजलीघर बने हुए हैं और कोयले से ही चलते

हैं और देश में बिजली की भारी कमी है । माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करें कि इसका क्या कारण है कि भंडारण की व्यवस्था प्रारम्भ से ही, इनके निर्मित होने के समय से ही क्यों नहीं की जाती ?

श्री वसंत साठे : यह सवाल तो जो पावर निर्माण करते हैं और जिनके पावर हाउसेज है उन्हीं से पूछा जाना चाहिए । मैं आपका सवाल उनके पास भेज दूंगा ।

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, the power houses in Bihar are very near to the coal mines and so, ordinarily, there should be no transport difficulty. Then, why in the last month the Bihar power houses were starved of coal and an SOS had to be sent to the Minister for coal supply? So, when there is linkage and when Bihar is one of the leading States in producing coal and the coal mines are very near to the power houses, why had such a situation arisen?

श्री वसंत साठे : सभापति जी, बिहार में कोयला है और कुछ पावर स्टेशन नजदीक हैं, वे रोड से ले जा सकते हैं, लेकिन हमने देखा है कि नजदीक के पावर हाउसेज रोड से नहीं ले जाना चाहते, रेल से ही ले जाना चाहते हैं और वहां दिक्कत पैदा होती है । हमें कोई एतराज नहीं है वे रोड से ले जायें, रेल से ले जायें कोयला देने का काम हमारा है, ले जाने का काम उनका है, जैसे वे ले जायें हम ले जाने देंगे ।

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, that was not my question at all. My question was, when there is linkage of rail why these power houses, which are very near to the coal mines, were starved of coal. He should give a satisfactory answer.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We are not starving them.

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: One of the power units at Nasik Road is about to be shut down for want of proper supply of coal.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The Nasik power house had a problem. I myself went to Bombay, called the officers concerned —of the railways and other Ministries— and we have sorted out the problem. We have ensured adequate supply of coal to the Nasik thermal power station and they are satisfied.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: The Minister says about low grade of coal. He says, whatever he has he will supply to the thermal stations. The thermal power stations and SEBs are complaining that not only is the ash content in the coal high—that is a different thing—but it is also oversized and it contains shells. It may look black but it is not coal. It contains shells and stones. Previously this Ministry employed "Shell Pickers" to remove the shells from the coal so that the actual coal is sold to consumers and power plants and the SEBs. Now the post of Shell Picker has been abolished. Now the shell remains in the coal and stones, not coal but black stones, remain in the coal and those things are supplied to the power plants and SEBs. I want to know if this complaint is correct and, if so, what the Government is going to do about it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, the hon. Member is narrating the whole story. It is true that particularly from the open cast mines shells and stones also were taken because both looked black and they used to come together. When this was brought to my notice, the first thing that I have done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Thank you very much.